



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau

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RON CURRY
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CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 15, 2010

Mr. Timothy E. Eastep, Manager
Environment, Land & Water Department
Chino Mines Company
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold
P.O. Box 10
Bayard, New Mexico 88023

RE: Groundhog Mine Site Annual Monitoring Report Approval
Hanover and Whitewater Creeks Investigation Unit (H/WCIU)
Chino Administrative Order on Consent (AOC)

Dear Mr. Eastep:

The Ground Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the above referenced Annual Monitoring Report, dated October 28, 2010, on November 1, 2010. NMED has reviewed the Report and approves this version of the Report.

NMED is disappointed that the interim remedial action does not appear to have improved shallow ground water quality which has declined significantly in well GH-2004-2S over the last two years. Constituents of concern, with increasing concentrations above the Water Quality Standards, in this well are cadmium, manganese, sulfate, TDS and zinc.

Also, the surface water aquatic life acute and chronic criteria were exceeded for cadmium, copper, lead and zinc. This fact supports the current practice of pumping the upper pond to alleviate subsurface flow through the adjacent tailing material under the pipeline haul road.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 388-1934.

Sincerely,

Phil Harrigan, Chino AOC Project Manager
Mining Environmental Compliance Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Silver City Field Office

cc: Mary Ann Menetrey, NMED
Jerry Schoeppner, NMED
Mark Purcell, USEPA
Chris Eustice, MMD (via email)
Kurt Vollbrecht, NMED (via email)

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